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UNCLAS KATHMANDU 000891

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TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [NP](#)

SUBJECT: Media Reaction: Nepal's Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba's visit to U.S.; French Presidential elections

¶1. "Deuba's US, UK trip"

Editorial, "Kathmandu Post" (E/D, 5/7): "...Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba's trip to the United States of America and the United Kingdom has come at a crucial time when Nepal needs international support for its development initiatives and security. The serious attention that Deuba's trip has drawn in those countries shows that both are concerned about Nepal's situation and needs. But the absence of a consensus on foreign policy matters among various political parties has quite often sent a wrong signal abroad and has even confused donors..."

"Nepal's campaign against the Maoist violence has, no doubt, attracted international concern and support. But the support will not be a blanket one. Alleged violation of human rights by the government will be raised in international fora as human rights record of a particular country affects aid disbursements and other concessions. If Deuba succeeds in securing international support to keep up the ongoing campaign against terrorism and help to rebuild the ravaged infrastructure, that will be considered a major achievement."

¶2. "A Significant Meeting"

Editorial, Rising Nepal (E/D, 5/7): "...It is an opportunity for Nepal to...exchange views on a number of pertinent issues in the backdrop of Nepal's fight against terrorism... The US on its part has agreed to support and cooperate with Nepal in its bid to contain the terrorists... The meeting in Washington D.C...with Secretary of State Colin Powell is viewed with optimism and in the

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interest of the country... The desire of the USA to see peace prevail in Nepal speaks for the concern that it has for the overall welfare of this country... That Mr. Deuba's talks with President Bush will end on a bright note is a foregone conclusion."

¶3. "On the French Front"

Editorial, Himalayan Times (E/D, 5/7): "The re-election of President Jacques Chirac for a second term will probably go down in the French annals as a political event of great significance for the Republic and the European Union... France, though quite safe now from a far-right backlash, is certainly not out of the woods. During his renewed tenure, President Chirac must demonstrate to the French public that he is not only committed to but also capable of cleansing his administration... The second term...is not going to be an easy one, given the discontent that has come to grip the French psyche over the last few years... The popular verdict was clear against Le Pen whose racist and anti-Semitic postures drew criticism from across the political spectrum. This year's presidential contest was, therefore, a blessing in disguise for the French people. They united against what could very well have grievously hurt their reputation around the world."

MALINOWSKI